

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
NORTHERN DIVISION

ZEDEKIAH SYKES, )  
Petitioner, )  
v. ) CASE NO. 2:18-CV-167-WKW  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) [WO]  
Respondent. )

**ORDER**

On January 26, 2021, the Magistrate Judge filed a Recommendation to which no timely objections have been filed. (Doc. # 17.) Upon an independent review of the record, it is ORDERED that the Recommendation is ADOPTED, that Petitioner's motion to vacate under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is DENIED, and that this action is DISMISSED with prejudice. Final judgment will be entered separately.

A certificate of appealability will not be issued. For a petitioner to obtain a certificate of appealability, he must make “a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). This showing requires that “reasonable jurists could debate whether (or, for that matter, agree that) the petition should have been resolved in a different manner or that the issues presented were adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further.” *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000) (citation and internal quotation marks omitted). And, where a

petition is denied on procedural grounds, he “must show not only that one or more of the claims he has raised presents a substantial constitutional issue, but also that there is a substantial issue about the correctness of the procedural ground on which the petition was denied.” *Gordon v. Sec'y, Dep't of Corrs.*, 479 F.3d 1299, 1300 (11th Cir. 2007) (citations omitted). “A ‘substantial question’ about the procedural ruling means that the correctness of it under the law as it now stands is debatable among jurists of reason.” *Id.*

Because reasonable jurists would not find the denial of Petitioner’s § 2255 motion debatable, a certificate of appealability is DENIED.

DONE this 23rd day of February, 2021.

/s/ W. Keith Watkins

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE